

PHILIPPINE SUNDAY INQUIRER



FIREY WONDER The United States shows off its entry in the monthlong 1st Philippine International Pyrotechnical (known as its music, or in the other way around) Competition that started on Feb. 14 at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasig City. The United Kingdom was adjudged grand champion, Australia and Japan, 2nd and 3rd places, respectively. Other competitors were China, France, Singapore and Malaysia. The Philippines exhibited on the last day.

PMayers call to arms

LP Senate bet Martin Bautista is a rib-tickling, singing doctor

By Philip C. Tebes

FOR A NONTRADITIONAL CANDIDATE, he is a throwback to the old style of political campaigning—a one-man song and stand-up comedy act.

"I'm close to the bottom of the surveys, but some times you just have to give the voters a reason to believe they are the most memorable man in Philippine elections," Liberal Party senatorial candidate Martin Bautista disappeared before an Inquirer audience on Thursday night.

With his boyish looks and melodious voice, Bautista could be any one of the many music stars capitalizing on their showbiz cachet to seek elective office.

And he even has it up, too.

Claiming to be a look-alike of actor Luis "Lucky" Manzano, the son of actor and Pangasinan Gov. Vilma Manzano, he says jokingly that Ralph Recto, former husband and fellow LP senatorial candidate, "is so nice because

LP SENATE 44

Resolution for clean poll sparked by failed election plots

By Christine O. Arendilla and Marlon Rave

PROMPTED BY FEARS OF A FAILURE OF ELECTIONS, TOP alumni of the Philippine Military Academy are preparing to call on their colleagues, whether on active duty or retired, to help ensure the integrity of the May 10 polls.

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Unbeaten Gordon 'pretty sure' of this one, too



CRACKS IN RIGID NORTH TV sponsor Rita Aquino dismisses the unopposed welcoming mob in Luzon City, not after her brother's arrival in Manila. There goes the sold North.

THE HEATED CAMPAIGN BUSTLES can fire out any candidate.

To perk himself up, Nationalista Party standard-bearer Sen. Manuel Villar regularly treats his face to Ernie Pichel Spray, according to a source.

The source said Villar shared his tip with him when he mentioned to the presidential candidate that he'd been getting sleepy on the campaign trail with so little time to rest.

He said Villar—who has litigied his campaign on a night-to-night, seven-of-the-eight story—must add his best to make the spray effective. Just before the five-star on-year leave today.

The Ernie website describes its facial spray as made of "natural spring water" that "irrigates all skin

UNBEATEN 41



Villar's 'orange' mail seeds red in yellow ribbons

By Christine O. Arendilla

THE "ORANGE" CAMP SEEDS RED in the color yellow.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday found that out for himself.

The color yellow of his presidential candidate, Liberal Party standard-bearer Sen. Rodrigo "Boyoy" Aquino, was not welcome in a mail owned by Nacionalista Party standard-bearer

VILLAR'S 44

• **Pope's former diocese in Germany faces 'tsunami' of abuse raps** • **British Airways strike begins** • **Nuclear facilities proposed in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao** **NEWS** • **Matt Damon to star in biopic of Robert Kennedy** **ENTERTAINMENT** • **With the return of Boy Kaendrig, jazz proves it's alive, or, at least breathing in the Metro** • **10 favorite places to drink, dine, drone off, relax, find yourself** • **10 reasons why drinking water defines quality of life** **SIM**

'I vote to bike' for the return of fireflies

By Alvin Papa

DUST OFF THOSE GLOVES AND bike riding gear.

The Firefly Brigade will hold its 12th "Tour of the Fireflies" bicycle ride around the city on April 18.

The Tour of the Fireflies is an annual critical mass ride that promotes the bicycle as an alternative and environmentally sound mode of transportation that will help make our cities firefly-friendly once again.

This year's theme is "I Vote to Bike."

The Firefly brigade is a citizens volunteer action group formed in 1991 to work for clean air and a habitable, people-friendly environment in the cities. Its name harkens back to the days of old when fireflies, a sign of clean air, were found all over Metro Manila.

The Firefly Brigade, however, is not supporting any presidential candidate in the May elections. The

INVEST 418

RP a model for migrant workers' policy

By Cynthia O. Balana

THE PHILIPPINE "GOOD PRACTICES" to migrant workers' policy is a model that Bangladesh would want to copy, according to Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shiekh Moin.

"We would like to share your experience in protecting the rights of your

expatriate workers, especially women expatriates," Moin said in an interview on the sidelines of the three-day Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Intrafaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development (MAMMM), which ended Thursday.

He said the Philippines' protection

of, support services for and enhanced development benefits for its migrant workers have made it one of the acknowledged leaders in global migration and migrants' protection.

She cited the "good practices" being adopted by government agencies, including regulatory frameworks for re-

OF 44



NOT ONLY FOR WOMEN To usher in March as the UN-designated women's month, men and women from all sectors came together in solidarity for a 30-minute march around Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig on March 1. Organized by Dawn partnering with Taguig City and the Philippine Commission on Women, the march is highlighted by the official launch of the Mga Kanta for Women. PHOTO: JIMMY

MILF: Don't vote for 'enemy of Islam' Erap

MILF MEMBERSHIP SURGES ON SATURDAY declared against ex-President Joseph Erap as "enemy of Islam" and called on the Muslims to reject his bid to become president again.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) also condemned a "Vote" or religious rally to meet last week by Muslim Solidarity Forum (MSF), grand imam of Marikina, against Erap for declaring an "all-out war" against Islamic rebels during his prior term as president.

The forum included vice presidential candidates Sen. Manuel Ponce II and municipal councilman Francisco Ordoñez, both of the Liberal Party, reportedly for blocking the signing of a peace treaty that would have granted the MILF their own homeland in Mindanao.

"After studying the actions and policies of Erap before and after his election as president, we found out that he is really an enemy of Islam," the MILF quoted the Shari'ah Department Council of Ulama as saying.

Triumph of Mindline'

In Manila near Erap's home in a third place in the opinion polls, one year after he was ousted in a people power revolt in January 2001.

Campaigning in Cebu City over the weekend, Erap declared that he was an "enemy of Islam."

"That's what I believe. That's why I am trying hard to bring peace to Mindanao," he said.

"The only problem is the MILF that continues to back left, right and center on false promises to Mindanao," he added.

Erap, who according to his supporters was the vice presidential candidate to hold a rally in Manila, said he did not regret launching an "all-out war" that led to the capture of several MILF camps during his administration.

Greatest achievement

"Considerable peace to Mindanao my greatest achievement, because that means that Christian and Muslim leaders would finally live together, side by side, in peace," Erap declared.

"This was what I achieved in 2000. This is what I promise to do if I return this 2010," he said.

People involved in Erap's campaign, including his vice-presidential pick, Sen. Ponce, said they were in Manila for the rally.

He was with vice presidential candidate Senator Romulo B. de la Cruz, former President Joseph Estrada, former Senator Benigno Aquino III, former Congressman Ben Lozano and TV hostess, and Joy de Venecia.

Rallies around the city were held on the people to join Erap. It was in full on all newspapers, the anti-Erap posters were placed inside his campaign posters.

Better to be ready if polls fail—watchdog

EVEN IF IT IS A REMINDER OF SUCCESS IN the conduct of the country's first fully automated polls, this should not stop the Commission on Elections (Comelec) from preparing for possible failures, according to a poll watchdog group.

Running by Rapin, co-president of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines National Secretariat for Social Action, called on the Comelec to set guidelines on what should be done in case automation failed to create trust.

Rapin said the poll body should not be swayed by pressure from election watchdog groups.

"Many watchdogs have the best intentions because every night thinking Filipinos without the high stakes in the election Commission imagination, how Namfrel may be welcome because it has the expertise, integrity and reputation in making out truly honest elections," the group said in a statement.

"The Comelec should work hard to earn the people's trust considering the stakes involved and the huge amount of money being spent for the May 2010 polls," it said.

According to the group, the Comelec should not expect more than 100 percent of the polling places. — Jada B. Soler

Erap said he was confident in his country but added that he knew the Muslims who were upset with him.

"The not afraid. As long as people are

ing good for your country, there's nothing to be afraid of," he said.

"Of course, those who are angry with me are the whole," he added.

"The primary duty of the executive is to protect the territorial integrity of the Philippines," Erap stressed.

"Mindanao is close to my heart. I want to see poverty eradicated in this region... This can only be achieved if there is peace," he said.



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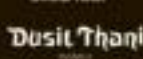


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News

Manila Mail: 140 (INCLUDES DOMESTIC AND 1200 For Sale • 140 (INCLUDES DOMESTIC AND 1200 For Sale)

Comelec stumped by ads showing several bets

By Lela B. Salaveria

TELEVISION COMMERCIALS ON which more than one candidate is shown may not be the best way to raise money for the campaign, but comparing how many seconds should be credited to each candidate poses a dilemma for the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Comelec Commissioner Gregorio Linares said the poll body would have no dilemma whether to count the whole ad against the allotted time credit of a candidate, or just the por-

tion of it where the candidate appeared.

Linares said some of the ads used reports that many of the candidates for president had nearly used up the 120 minutes of commercial per TV station that they are allowed during the campaign period, as prescribed by the Fair Election Act.

According to Linares, he would like to see how the number of minutes that a candidate had used up for TV advertisements was compared by the

groups who sponsored them.

He pointed out that there were situations where competing the time used up by a candidate may not be clear.

"There might be an ad where three or four candidates are included. Was it counted against this one candidate or against all? So this is something we have to look at," he said.

"The example, in one ad, a candidate is featured only for two seconds. How can we charge the whole 30 seconds," he said.

He said he did not think the issue was tickled to the hilt. It would have to be discussed by the Comelec on a later date.

Commissioner Remy standard-bearer Marcial Villar has come up with two TV commercials where he stars with his maternal lineup. How will this be counted?

Joseph Estrada and running mate DepEd Secretary Arroyo are also seen in one TV ad with their candidates for senate. How sharing a commercial ad for Bangon Pilip-

ino standard-bearer Eddie Ilan, however, and running mate Freden Sison.

Minister Natividad and Linares, who are part of Villar's maternal line, also star in one commercial.

Linares said the commission would also have to discuss questions raised over the party-like slogan that is on Villar's TV ad for his own campaign.

May 10, 2011 has eventually been using one of Villar's most popular TV advertisements, with just a few tweaks to it and changing the group's name to the end of the year. The ads of the



group, however, has shown an increase in TV with the 2010 to possibly reach 100 million each.

Teachers will get 30 minutes to vote

By Kristine L. Rios

TEACHERS WHO WILL SERVE AS members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) in the May 10 election will be given 30 minutes to leave their posts and vote in their own precinct, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said.

In a resolution dated March 16, the Comelec amended the rules for BEI and gave teachers an extension of 30 minutes from the originally set break time of 20 minutes.

The Comelec said this would give them "single" time to participate in the first scheduled presidential and local elections.

The BEI, according to the Comelec, can vote in the precinct where they are registered, "provided that they do not allow the voting area to become a place of congregation in light, and their absence shall not be for more than 20 minutes."

The Comelec also directed them to schedule their voting so that "only one member of the BEI shall leave at any one time."

The amendment was in response to an appeal by the group Teachers' Deputy Inspectors, which requested that the original time allotment was "insufficient." In the past, teachers could not leave their posts in whatever precinct they were assigned to monitor for a day.

With automated elections, however, ballots are transmitted per precinct, so the teachers will have to cast their votes in their original precincts.



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Bet backs nuke power but not from Bataan

CORONADO CITY—A SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN from power-delivering nuclear Philippines doesn't want the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) reopened but proposes that Isabela, the Visayas and Mindanao each get nuclear power facilities.

Agnes del Rio, Bataan's first and only power plant, has been the country's most controversial power source since its opening in 1976. It was closed in 1984 after a series of accidents.

Plans to restart the reactor under the Duterte administration have been shelved.

The 11th Philippine senatorial campaign to open up the country to nuclear power is led by Duterte. He said he would like to see the country's nuclear power plants, but not the BNPP. He said he would like to see the country's nuclear power plants, but not the BNPP. He said he would like to see the country's nuclear power plants, but not the BNPP.

Nuclear technology is safer. To prevent the occurrence of a nuclear accident, the government should seriously consider putting up nuclear power plants such as Isabela, the Visayas and Mindanao," he said. Duterte said the BNPP should be closed down to design new reactors "in the 1970s fashion and mode."

He said new nuclear reactor technologies offered no possibility of a meltdown, were inexpensive and did not generate radioactive waste. Duterte said he would like to see the country's nuclear power plants, but not the BNPP.

"Country is old belief, nuclear technology is a lot safer than it was when it was first developed. It's a mature now. Safety is our priority. It's not a nuclear power generation because it is safe, cheaper and considered to be more environmentally friendly than coal-fired power plants," Duterte said.

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BUYERS look for bargains and interesting finds at the inauguration of the Segunda Mano Charity Store in Pasig, Manila on Thursday.

SHARED BLESSINGS

Charity store opens for pro-poor projects

By Tito G. Santos

THINKING OF DUMPING YOUR old clothes, shoes and furniture?

Don't. Give the stuff to Caritas Manila instead.

For three years now, the leading social arm of the Archdiocese of Manila, through its Segunda Mano project, has been recycling donations in kind that are sold to raise funds for its various poverty alleviation initiatives.

However, not all items donated to Segunda Mano are hand-me-downs, as the term literally suggests.

"We accept new, old, and used and unused items, which have value and can be sold," said Fr. Antonio Pascual, Caritas Manila's executive director. "Old clothes in need for disposal and unwanted furniture are also welcome."

"Segunda Mano, in this case, means charity in kind. It is sharing our blessings to help and poverty," he said, adding that through the project, he hopes to develop the habit of giving to every day of the living liturgical.

But why donate donated goods here or sell instead of giving straight to the needy?

Right opportunity

Explained Caritas Manila chair Manila Archbishop Cardinal Romero:

"Segunda Mano not only multiplies the proceeds it generates but also integrates the donors' good intentions."

Pascual said the project is not only an opportunity to help those in need but also a way to give to the public on Thursday.

"If you find an item for anything at all, don't use it if you don't need it, give it away. What is no longer useful to you may still be valuable to others," he said.

Although the fund-raising project was launched in October 2007, the first Segunda Mano Charity Store in Caritas Manila's headquarters on J. P. Rizal Street, Pasig, opened to the public only on Thursday.

Generous response

"We want to build sustained informal business. Now the public can only on a definite schedule and venue if they wish to give something to our Segunda Mano," said Romero.

He said the charity store was just an alternative to generate an endogenous response from progressive donors.

The department store-type market, which accepts Caritas Manila's old collection, is

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The World

Editor Lawrence B. Gueco

Pope's former diocese faces a 'tsunami' of abuse claims

MUNICH—POPE BENEDICT XVI'S FORMER diocese is facing new allegations of physical and sexual abuse on a daily basis, the head of its new sex abuse task force said on Friday.

"It is like a tsunami," like Hammer, who leads the diocese's newly founded abuse prevention task force, told The Associated Press.

Hammer's estimates, drawn over almost 120 cases not recent to date, amount 120 of them at the nearby local seminary boarding school, run by Benedictine monks, the diocese, however, he said is not to deal with the old cases, but help set up the prevention program.

On Friday, five new task force members, including Hammer, were officially commissioned and tasked by Archbishop Reinhard Marx, began to work.

By November, to place a more preventive program to fight abuse in Roman Catholic institutions, it is the first of its kind in the German church, which has been deeply shaken by allegations of sexual and physical abuse on victims since the late 1990s.

When the first abuse case broke at St. Elizabeth's three months ago, Hammer immediately set down with colleagues to investigate and find a way out of the "situation," he said.

"I don't think I have ever seen a case like this," Hammer, head of the diocese's social work unit, said about the church's leadership.

Marx has said he wants to bring up everything into the open and also ensure a transition to a state through all records to find out who knew what and when.

The first step is to take stock of what has happened, analyze

patterns and then find ways to prevent similar cases by making people look more closely.

"When education was doing around things like riding kids on wheels or having them over for dinner, 'it's not light but it's not breaking,'" he said.

Hammer's eyes were lit up. "It was a very serious situation, but we have not seen them from the diocese. It was not a case, but it was a case."

Hammer is familiar with some individual cases, however. He mentioned a man who was abused as a child in the 1970s in a house for handicapped kids. He contacted the diocese just this week.

Last week, the diocese confirmed the case of a priest who was convicted in 1980 to 10 years, that came after three years of prison, alleged he had abused his children in the southwestern city of Bonn, the diocese said.

The priest returned from prison, but then returned to work with programs. He was convicted of abuse in 1976.

Pope Benedict, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was archbishop of Munich and Freising at the time of the priest's transfer from Bonn to Munich. The diocese has said Ratzinger knew about the transfer but not about the priest's criminal record in Bonn.

The priest was convicted in 1980 to 10 years of prison for sexual abuse of a minor. He was released in 1984. The priest returned to work with programs. He was convicted of abuse in 1976.

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'YELLOW PERK'

A woman wears her face in the yellow shawl during a demonstration in Beijing on March 26. Beijing was up to the Chinese capital's center of a day after the 2008 Olympic Games. A woman's shawl in the north of the country and Mongolia was into the city.

Serial killings in Indonesia highlight widespread child abuse

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—WHEN a seemingly kind street vendor confined to the serial abuse and murder of 14 boys, it was a story that was both shocking and familiar.

Indonesian drug peddlers in market towns, said, Robert Smith, who died of a heart attack in 2007 while on death row for trying to smuggle 12 boys in the mid 1990s.

In both cases, most of the victims were Indonesian. The serial killings highlight what activists

say is a widespread and largely ignored problem: the rampant sex abuse of poor children in the Indonesian archipelago.

The media pulled a card through the leading streets of Jakarta, the capital, selling drugs, drink and cigarettes.

The serial killings, said, Robert Smith, who died of a heart attack in 2007 while on death row for trying to smuggle 12 boys in the mid 1990s.

he took loans and gave temporary loans, apparently without making them.

Others he strangled, sometimes with a knife and sometimes with a hammer, he said.

Indonesian was arrested in late 1990s in January, after the serial killings and several other cases of child abuse.

The 48-year-old man was known for having a soft heart for street kids, many of whom

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'ELEKTYUN IS READING'

For Voter or For Worse

Philippines' upcoming March 9 polls: the who and how

Jon Santos

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March 27 2010, 6:30 PM

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British Airways strike begins

LONDON—A three-day strike by some employees of British Airways began on Monday, posing a possible threat to Britain's tourism industry.

A lot of staff at British Airways and the United Kingdom representing staff of the airline's employees had failed Friday when they collapsed.

A second outbreak of four days in school was expected to start on March 27.

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World Briefs

'Red shirts' try to win over Thai capital

BANGKOK—Thousands of Thai protesters packed Bangkok's capital to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The protesters, known as "Red Shirts," began their demonstration on Monday, demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The protesters, known as "Red Shirts," began their demonstration on Monday, demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The protesters, known as "Red Shirts," began their demonstration on Monday, demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

British boy receives pioneering stem cell surgery

LONDON—A British boy has received a pioneering stem cell surgery to treat his rare blood disorder. The surgery, performed at a hospital in London, was a first for the boy. The surgery, performed at a hospital in London, was a first for the boy. The surgery, performed at a hospital in London, was a first for the boy.

Texas gives copy of pardon to man's family

HOUSTON—The family of a Texas man who died while in prison for a crime he was later pardoned for, received a copy of the pardon. The family, who had been waiting for the pardon for years, received it on Monday. The family, who had been waiting for the pardon for years, received it on Monday. The family, who had been waiting for the pardon for years, received it on Monday.

Judge orders renegotiation of \$11 settlement

NEW YORK—A federal judge on Friday ordered a legal settlement of \$11 million to be renegotiated. The judge, who had been hearing the case for months, ordered the settlement to be renegotiated. The judge, who had been hearing the case for months, ordered the settlement to be renegotiated. The judge, who had been hearing the case for months, ordered the settlement to be renegotiated.

WHAT'S INSIDE
Pacquiao
 home tomorrow
 for hero's
 welcome /A24



Sunday SPORTS

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PBA raises curtains on Fiesta Conference; Kings, Texters square off /A24

BEST OF THE BEST

Raymundo, Landicho, Garcia rule NTCC golf

By Jong Reyes

CHINO KAMENIGO NEVER STOPPED believing in himself even when tagged against the hottest player in the field. Ricke Garcia felt his rating was in the groove against a familiar rival. And Lucy Landicho knew she could put the other chieftains in her bags to good use more than a half-dozen times.

Raymundo, Garcia and Landicho slipped past their respective rivals like clouds parting to reveal themselves the best of the best in the 8th National Tournament of Club Champions at the Sierrita course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Iloilo, 37th, Corbin.

The No. 2 seed from Valley Raymundo, indeed, up three straight holes from the 10th in a decisive swing that carried him past the top-seeded 20-year-old Manila Golf and Country Club's Garcia.

The 46-year-old Raymundo's 2-up victory came on a shanking end to the top seed, who had looked so invincible in the first two days of the tournament by disposing of

"I never stopped believing in myself despite the (shots) being lost. I just wanted to make the most of this chance and fortunately, I won," said Raymundo, a businessman from Pangasinan who has biggest trophy yet.

Garcia, the first Home champion, redemptively himself from a no-win after the scolding round where he finished 12th, captured the 20th of Manila Golf, 5 and 4, to successfully make the semi-finals.

It was a grueling match between old friends who fought for last year's Manila Golf title won by Garcia. The rival, Garcia, indeed, looked after a series of swing adjustments—again not to be denied.

The loss marked the end of a big run for Garcia whose triumph in golf have been swinging wildly lately. Only last month, he won a priority 2009 AF in the Golden Tee of Manila Golf.

For Landicho, the result couldn't have been better for someone finally forced to



RAYMUNDO



GARCIA

Without Golf and Country Club, Muzone, Pangasinan, Home Depot, WGC and Goring brought.



1907 Landicho is all pumped up after sealing her victory. (Jong Reyes)

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Sunday Biz

Power, power, power

By Amy R. Reyes

IF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT were to meet the forecast demand for this year, there would be no shortage of power.

While the increasing power supply situation has been attributed to the breakdown of several facilities, scheduled maintenance shutdowns and the El Niño weather disturbance, Francisco J. Virey believes that there might also be some good on other fronts that could have been addressed earlier.

Many who arrived at the energy chief during the administration of former President Fidel V. Ramos, say the supply shortages were clearly brought about by the lack of adequate investments in the power sector over the past decade and of clear and consistent energy policies that could have strengthened the planning for the country's energy needs.

"We have to review current policies. Considering all the lessons we learned since 1993, there had been many lessons to work on," Virey tells the business.

Many believe that the current situation may be the last straw in the early '90s, when there was an actual lack of generating capacity. During that time, the government had launched power generation plans where it ran down electricity lines and as such, it had to resort to buying a number of generators with private independent power producers to help ease the severe shortages.

Government warnings

As early as September last year, the Energy Secretary Neri L. Reyes had already issued the alarm over power supply shortages in 2010 with the caveat that the 31 billion capacity (kilowatts) and the overlapping schedules for the maintenance repairs of different power plants.

Reyes had then proposed to Congress a contingency plan, which would avoid PG&Es in P1 billion. The two-year plan included measures that could save power shortages and ensure adequate supply during the May 2010 elections.

However, the focus on the country's critical power situation could come only to late January this year when the last facility broke down and had caused ongoing shortages in Luzon. The onset of the prolonged drought also worsened the supply situation, with the water resources planning to dry up at their critical levels, thus lowering the generating capacities of hydropower plants.

Since then, the country's power supply remained unstable, with Mindanao being hit the hardest, also increasing 50 percent of its electricity requirements



Virey

from hydropower sources.

As of May 12, Reyes says that the hydropower facilities in Mindanao are generating at a dismal 90 MW less than 32 percent of its hydropower plant's total capacity of 354 MW.

Data from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines also showed that as of May 12, the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids posted huge supply deficits of 444 megawatts, 31 MW, and 100 MW, respectively.

Last week, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had already declared a state of calamity in Mindanao to allow cities, towns and provinces to access funds to carry out quick response modular generating units to address the acute power shortage.

The government is making it 50 to the supply gap, particularly in Mindanao to ensure adequate power supply during the elections. More P2.5 billion would be needed to acquire generators that could generate as much as 200 MW.

According to Virey, the idea of bringing in generators was plausible to solve an additional smaller power generation deficits. However, with the electricity demand up to 730 MW, the former energy chief is wondering whether these generators would be sufficient to ensure supply by May 15.

Long-term solutions

With the power crisis already full-blown, they say the Philippine government should already start focusing and preparing for 2014 or 2015 when demand could have greatly increased.

stipped the existing generating capacities of its new facilities are high.

Currently, the Luzon grid's dependable capacity was pegged at 2,620 MW as of mid-2008 while peak demand rose at 4,822 MW during the same period; Visayas has a dependable capacity of 1,205 MW as against a peak demand of 1,176; and Mindanao, 1,062 MW as against a peak demand of 1,230 MW.

The growth rate estimated at 4.6 percent annually.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that from 2010 to 2018, Luzon should have additional capacity of 71,080 MW; Visayas, 2,110 MW; and Mindanao, 1,580 MW. However, committed power projects for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were estimated to generate only 686 MW, 624 MW and 600 MW, respectively.

In terms of resources, regulations, policies and other initiatives, the Philippines may have a lot of catching up to do.

The number of power lines, towers and poles estimated to be under the government should immediately have a closer regulatory control, as well as the energy policies and push for the construction of new plants, which may be the key in making investments in the local energy sector less risky and more politically and economically in implementing all these initiatives and long-term measures that will ensure energy security.

Excess capacity

Many say the current market is much like the wholesale electricity spot market where electricity is traded.

In the WPPH (Wholesale Electricity Pool) market, the electricity traded would be the volume to be actually dispatched and committed, in the same market, the quantities to trade are computed "on average" or "on average" capacities representing 20 percent above the actual demand. These reserves may be used when a power plant is on maintenance shutdown or there are breakdowns in plants.

The explanation that the reserve market has given investors an assured market for the top of the WPPH—a very attractive incentive to build the much-needed power plants from abroad has been to enter into agreements with different business utilities or electric companies (as evidenced).

liberty, the gross reserves (which would comprise the reserve market) would not be less than 1,500 MW in Luzon, 1,000 MW in Visayas, and 200 MW in Mindanao.

Very much like the power sector in other developing at the entrance of the spot and reserve market in this will be the sustainability of their power plants. "If we don't have these [power] shortages in Luzon again, repeated,

ly in Mindanao, the WPPH and reserve market should be able to handle within the short term, since we need to start building facilities this year," he explains.

This scheme of having "excess capacity" however came under fire during the Ramos administration as the public refused to pay for electricity that was not consumed. There were also reports of the high operating and maintenance costs of the power plants that were barely running since these only provide supply reserves.

Many countries that this would not necessarily result in higher prices but would rather give the assurance of a steady supply of electricity even amid lower market prices in the short term; increased problems at the plants; and scheduled maintenance repairs. Of course, due security and stability concerns as well.

"The cost of reserve power is cheaper than that of power in business brought about by power shortages brought by lack of supply," he asserts.

Excess capacity

With the huge need on the ramp up of "excess capacity," they recall that the government should already start the reserve power to be used by the demand. As such, the demand continued to grow but investment remained stagnant.

"That was artificial reserve then, if they allowed these investments to push through, there would have been more capacity and Mindanao wouldn't be suffering from these outages now," he explains.

While there were more market, they also say the government should have explained criteria that would take into consideration all factors including weather, even if the probability of these events happening at the same time is highly unlikely and uncertain.

"It happened here," he says, pointing to what happened in Luzon, which experienced overlapping shutdowns, breakdowns and another disturbance, all at the same time.

He also cites the case of Mindanao as an example, explaining that the current planning criteria was not based on possible drought conditions but rather on annual rainfall. This proved to be false, as seen now, considering the island's generation mix.

Other areas that would need to be reviewed in future plans include maintenance shutdowns, scheduling maintenance shutdowns, the implementation of WPPH in Luzon and Mindanao, the establishment of local capacity and other initiatives under the Renewable Energy Law to make sure investments in sustainable projects and indigenous calls in planning for the future energy program.

"The government has to act now and fast," Virey adds.

'Magbuburda' of Bulacan tops national OTOP till

By Tereza Orjeda
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN BERNARDO—THEY'RE an ordinary neighborhood (villages) and artisans.

The Bagong Barrio Multipurpose Cooperative (BIMPC) is just eight years ago, but it's not just a cooperative; it's the government's One Village One Product (OTOP) program to be in place.

The BIMPC topped the 2009 Outstanding OTOP (OTOP) award, a first for the group—as the choice of the national OTOP program on March 15 in the Philippine Trade Training Center in Manila.

BIMPC's winning top award is a great start for OTOP program, a very successful in Central Luzon," Manila City Mayor, director of the Department of Trade and Industry in Central Luzon, said last Thursday.

President Macapagal Arroyo, Trade Secretary Peter Velasco and Undersecretary Wilfredo Cruz handed a cash prize of P200,000 and plaque to BIMPC last week.

The BIMPC also received a "certificate of appreciation" for its role in the OTOP program.

The cooperative has created a label, "OTOP Brand," which is printed in 2009.

The members consider the award a "big honor," according to Ramon B. Velasco, Jr., former chair and now director of BIMPC.

"That's not all, but it's also a big honor for us, not just for the award but for the fact that we are now in the OTOP program," he says.

The award, he said, also serves as an "inspiration for us to continue improving what we do."

BIMPC generated the award four months after it was selected to be the OTOP in Central Luzon for 2009. It came to the regional level after winning the Bulacan Best OTOP Award for three years straight.

Founded in September 2002 as a startup capital of P1 million from the share of the 31 founding members, BIMPC has P40 million in capital and assets as of 2009.

Its main office and showroom is located in San Bernado, Baguio. BIMPC has built an income and not an income.

Business owner and producer and general manager...

Biggest gold producer produces another gold

By Frank Chirba
Inquirer Manila Bureau

MANILA, BANGKOK—LIBERTY GOLD, the biggest gold producer in the country, has it may also be responsible for developing a new "golden" product that has made local



Liberty Gold with success.

The Thai and Thai Association of Libers has been producing golden diamonds since the production of gold bars.

Though recent as present as British retailer Liberty's First Place is seen with a list of initiatives.

It is said to be the second only during Liberty's company assets, but today they have been a popular drink in the market, thanks to a poster for the support of LGM's employees.

Bea's runs.

Supported by the main in nearby Thailand is in the Philippines, which produced the new popular liquor (gold diamonds) when the Thai and Thai Association has been championing that set of ingredients while making wine, pineapple and other local products.

The story of wine and other products has been developed, however, from the Thai and Thai to the new money from the gold bars, says former Jose G. Gaudin, LGM's vice president and administrator.

He says a main member represents the share of the 30 bottles to the association. "Their purpose is to use the local products through processing and their vision is to develop local food products that are not only suitable for properly prepared and processed," Gaudin says.

Someone gave up the nearby money.



and suggested patterns, he says, because Markyana is among the first top producers of gold in Bangkok.

Unique taste

Using their own local gold, the association has developed local products into wine and food for the local market.

Traditional products wine requires a pinch of salt and sugar to be added with dried products, which are brewed in some and used for at least two weeks.

The members asked LGM's human resource department for P10,000 as working capital. Their first buy product was 90

of their wine, which were sold and promptly found by company workers and officials, Gaudin says.

The group's first three Libers for its wine-making life and the association also gave them a walk at the Bangkok's First Place, which is also dedicated to gold.

Today, the Thai and Thai Association produces 400 bottles each month.

But what comes in from and strong as they have yet to produce a million. They will also be able to produce a million to sell their wine into the market.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Name it, election paraphernalia have it

Never has political merchandise been this varied and cool—from map shirts to mobile phones, rosary bracelets, golf bags and even alcohol

By Claudia V. Pineda

WHEN SEN. REMONDO Aguilar Jr.'s sisters visited the bazaar recently, they brought a small box and a paper bag containing various political paraphernalia.

Before they sat down for the interview, they discussed the numerous, trendy lapel pins with yellow plastic straps. On the dial is the signature inside yellow ribbons and an inscription, "ReyMar 2010." The popular one is small, it couldn't have been your typical campaign medal.

In party gear, and in the month leading to an election, it wasn't surprising to receive small checks with candidates' names stamped on the check's face. Today at best, but it may easily be upgrade from the white

SUNDAY 13

Drowning in orange—happily

But Cynthia and Camille Villar say no to buying Birkins from the signature orange Hermès



VILLARsister Ed. Clark

By Alan T. Vargas

EVEN BEFORE THE OFFICIAL campaign period kicked off a month ago, Rep. Cynthia Villar of Las Piñas and daughter Camille have been getting all sorts of gifts in swags.

They received as many as friends and supporters asked that too. Many Villar had chosen orange as his campaign color for the presidential race in the slugging of former president and rival Joseph Estrada, who had used the color blue.

Villar swagging from colorful nylon bags with leather handles inspired by Lushington to sunglasses in a range of shades of orange have found their way to the couple's. Meanwhile, supporters, dubbed the "Sunset House," as well as the community in Tuguegarao.

The growing collection also includes head scarves, Spanish hats, umbrellas of red and fringed shawls whose orange color resembles Sister of Sorbonne, the French luxury brand.

This didn't escape the attention of a distant supporter and popular blogger who found a connection, no matter how tenuous, between Villar's campaign color and the recent funeral opening of her brother.

SUNDAY 14

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Name it, election paraphernalia have it



'HIMICANE' Love couple from photo



TOTIE bag from photo



AGIANO, BAD from photo

From page C1

dars with the same image splashed on the pages and distributed by "politico" during the holidays.

Then, again, who would gladly hang the Congressman's face on the wall to honor you off the cheap drink table in last? If photos are involved, sure. But this presidential election has seen some of the most diverse and most creative campaign merchandise to date that it's actually sold in mass. According to *Collection C2*, creative design: Black T-shirts, the brand's My Philippine map T-shirts in black or yellow, dark blue long on the shoulders, *Collection C2* got 10 first ball order of black shirts with yellow map on the chest and yellow ribbon on the sleeve during the week of President Cory Aquino last year. It was for use of the family.

Telling the men are quickly gone as soon as they're introduced, he said. *EMMY* said, the image users don't do as well. On the other hand, the color of Aquino's choice was red, from *Manila Times*.

But, the first to sell the yellow ribbon

Never-before-seen. Several campaign groups have also come up with new merchandise every before seen to fund politics. Most of them are sold in mass for the campaign.

A local mobile phone manufacturer used the yellow ribbon Cory Aquino's name, *photo*, a limited-edition yellow phone with the yellow ribbon logo, but only intended only for the Aquino family. But the manufacturer limited the demand and produced more, it also came up with new color styles, also in yellow. It was for the Aquino family.

Two watch brands, *Philip Soto* and *Sanchez*, also came up with special, limited-edition Cory Aquino watches to give them in the last period, which Aquino



COLLAPSE from photo



WATCH from photo

MYPHONE from photo



ALCOHOL from photo



BRQ from photo

poster are ongoing up. At the *photo* headquarters in Manila (tel. 800 791), a group of women volunteers for the Aquino-Roxas campaign, it selling a wide range of merchandise, from caps to hats, long chains, money band bracelets, yellow ribbon armbands, belt bags, and more (called "Yellow Ribbon"), and—just—just bag. The latter has sold so well that they have only one of the two styles left.

Other volunteer groups have also made their merchandise available online. The *photo* in *Manila* (www.manila-photo.com) has sold a wide range of merchandise to supporters. T-shirts and caps, yellow ribbon armbands, gift tags. For a time, they were also *Manila* Cory's yellow ribbon phone cards. There are even cheap posters with images of Aquino-Cory on the bottle.

In winning this election, so much, it seems, is too much.

Drowning in orange—happily



SPANISH from photo



RED from photo



BAD from photo

During an interview late last year, we asked Rep. Villar and daughter if their orange bands included the party mascot. At all, as one of the country's richest families, the Villar women could buy their own. But they say they shared the love.

"That's not the only thing we give of buying," she said. "I don't want to show my wealth through such obvious displays of wealth."

Anna Castillo, a top-level fashion designer, admitted the thought. She said it is not unreasonable to show away an olive branch of money to buy such items.

"We need to cover your purchases more if you want to show up for them," she said. The Villar camp has been going away.

The check-outlines are in support of an over to the Aquino camp's popularity more popular yellow ribbon market.

Apart from Sen. Villar's handsome



PERFECT from photo



Orange from photo

WINDBREAKER from photo



EXQUISITE from photo



PUTTER'S from photo



GRACE from photo

deal with a group of uneducated and ill-literate children. As far as money goes, the photo goes perfectly with his riches at the time. "I'm not a millionaire," he said. "I'm a poor man."

Should Villar win the presidency this time, it's not hard to imagine that this deal would end up as one more offering to the new president's image of himself.



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Where You Live Life to the Fullest

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Alveo: Innovating the Way You Live for 8 Years

For a company that has been innovating the way businesses live for eight years, Alveo Land has created a different community that cater specifically to diverse needs of their market. An Alveo Land company, Alveo Land has been a strong driver of the overall growth of the Alveo Land residential business group – contributing a total of 31% or AED 5.5 million points in the income after taxes (IAT) in 2009 to its parent company.

Through the years, Alveo Land has chartered new territories – creating new beach communities that define the kinds of modern living in their market. First of these are the new Plaza. Alveo's first integrated development offering competitiveness living in the heart of Layan, the new Plaza, which is a premier lifestyle destination living in the heart of Layan. Alveo's ongoing modern lifestyle community in the heart of Layan, which changed the landscape of Layan at the first integrated

development. The Alveo Plaza, the first residential development of Alveo Land, which is a premier lifestyle destination living in the heart of Layan, which changed the landscape of Layan at the first integrated

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